Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System,
Control Station, Worker Cottage
(Building No. 106)
Bishop Creek
Bishop Vicinity
Inyo County
California

HAER No. CA-145-1-D

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System, Control Station **HAER No. CA-145-1-D**
Worker Cottage (Building 106)
Bishop Creek
Bishop Vicinity
Inyo County
California

Location: Near Bishop Creek in Southeast 1/4 of Section 17, Township 7 South, Range 32 East, M.D.M, Inyo County, California (UTM Coordinates 11/368860/4133060), in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountain Range approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the town of Bishop, California, and 225 air miles due north of Los Angeles.

Date of Construction: 1927

Builder: Southern Sierras Power Company

Present Owner: Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

Original Use: Worker Cottage

Present Use: Worker Cottage

Significance: Building 106 has always served as a residence for employees of the Southern Sierras Power Company who worked at the adjacent operations building at Control Station. Building 106 is significant for its contribution to an understanding of the historic character of the physical and social environment of the Control Station compound. The Bishop Creek System is considered significant for its role: (1) in the expansion of hydroelectric generation technology, (2) in the development of eastern California, and (3) in the development of long-distance power transmission and distribution.

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Southern California Edison Company
Environmental Affairs Division
Rosemead, CA 91770

Date: July 31, 1997

I. DESCRIPTION

Building 106, Control Station, was originally constructed in 1927 as an employee residence, a function it has continued to serve to the present time. It is a one-story-with-attic wood-frame structure, rectangular in plan, reflecting Craftsman Style detailing and lines. The building, which sits on a concrete foundation, has exposed rafter ends and purlins. It has had major alterations from the original plan.

Building 106 is situated at the north end of the Control Station residential enclave in a context of several mature trees, small shrubs close to the house, and a broad grassy yard (photo 145-1-D-1). Oriented north/south, the gable roof is covered with composition shingles. The building retains its original brick chimney with a sheet-metal hipped cap. Also crowning the roof is a newer, all sheet-metal tubular chimney (photo 145-1-D-2).

The main entrance to the building is via four concrete steps to a small stoop at the northeast corner of the building (photo 145-1-D-3). The stoop is covered by a shed roof supported by two wooden posts. Welded tubular pipe is used for the railing flanking the elevated stoop and stair.

The predominant glazing type is a 6-light over 1-light, double-hung, wood-framed window arranged singly or in pairs (photo 145-1-D-2). Smaller 1-light over 1-light, double-hung, wood-frame windows, and 4-light casement and fixed windows are also used. The original windows feature simple board trim with projecting sills. The trim board over most openings have splayed ends. Several of the smaller windows on the south side of the house have been replaced with aluminum-framed sliders (photo 145-1-D-4). The attic space is illuminated by 6-light fixed windows near the top of each gable end (photo 145-1-D-5). These windows are incorporated into a three-unit horizontal window-like feature which also includes two vents. The louvered vents may have replaced original glazing, which is suggested by the fact that both ends of the building have received different vent treatment.

A major remodeling resulted in the full incorporation of the space originally occupied by the front porch across the east side of the house into the interior rooms. A solid front door and two modern sliding windows were combined into the new construction (photos 145-1-D-1 and 145-1-D-4). Asbestos siding has been applied to the exterior over the original clapboard siding (photo 145-1-D-6).

The front door at the northeast corner of the house leads to the 12 x 21 foot living room, which shows extensive alteration from the original as a result of the remodeling that enclosed the former porch area on the east side of the house (photo 145-1-D-7). The flush front door and the

modern sliding glass window on the east wall resulted from the remodel. The paired 6-light over 1-light, double-hung, wood-framed windows on the north wall are originals. A bricked heater enclave occupies the northwest corner below a ceiling vent (photo 145-1-D-8). An open doorway on the west wall leads to the kitchen and a paneled door on the western end of the south wall leads to bedroom no. 2. The room is lighted by a single electrical fixture in the center of the acoustical tile ceiling. Flooring is wall-to-wall carpet.

The 9 x 12 foot kitchen features built-in cabinetry surrounding the sink and flanking a 1-light over 1-light, double-hung, wood-frame window (photos 145-1-D-9 and 145-1-D-10). Walls and ceiling are plaster; flooring is linoleum framed by a wide baseboard. A single ceiling fixture and a single wall fixture over the window and sink illuminate the room.

A wide doorway at the back (west side) of the kitchen opens to a 12 x 8 foot utility room and the back door to the house (photos 145-1-D-11 and 145-1-D-12). A 4-light casement window flanking the back door on the south side, and a pair of 4-light fixed windows, and a 4-light casement and 4-light fixed window combination flanking the back door on the opposite side form a continuous row of glazing across the north and west side of this room. Several built-in cabinets provide storage on the south wall above washer and dryer plumbing and vents. Walls and ceiling are plaster. Flooring is linoleum framed by a wide baseboard. A single ceiling fixture illuminates the room.

The 9 x 12 foot bedroom no. 1 is accessed from a paneled door leading into the kitchen (photo 145-1-D-13). This room features a 3 x 3 foot walk-in closet adjacent the entry door. A hinged trap-door leading to the attic is located in the ceiling above the closet and entry doors. A second door on the east wall leads to the bathroom. The room has two 6-light over 1-light, double-hung, wood-framed windows, one each on the west and south walls (photo 145-1-D-14). Walls are plaster with a narrow crown molding. Flooring is hardwood framed by a wide baseboard. A single ceiling fixture lights the room.

The 6 x 7 foot bathroom is accessed from two panel doors on opposite sides which lead to the bedrooms (photos 145-1-D-15 and 145-1-D-16). The bathroom features a shower/bath, sink with distinctive "wing" vanity areas, toilet, and built-in cabinets. Walls and ceiling plaster. Flooring is linoleum. A single wall fixture over the sink and mirror lights the room. An original window on the south wall above the shower/bath has been replaced with an aluminum-framed slider.

Bedroom no. 2 is the mirror opposite of bedroom no. 1, except 6 feet longer as a result of the remodeling that eliminated the front porch (photo 145-1-D-17). It is access from the living room by way of a panel door framed with the wide and simply embellished wood surrounds found on

all of the original doorways and windows (photo 145-1-D-18). In addition to the 3 x 3 foot walk-in closet, bedroom no. 2 features built-in storage cabinets and closet that occupy the entire east wall (photo 145-1-D-19). Both of the windows in this room are modern aluminum-framed sliders. Like the remodeled living room, the ceiling in bedroom no. 2 is acoustical tile. Flooring is wall-to-wall carpet. A single ceiling fixture illuminates the room. A second crawl-way to the attic is located in the ceiling in front of the cabinets along the east wall.

Control Station and Plant No. 5 are southwest of Plant No. 6 and northeast of Plant Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The Bishop Creek System is about five miles southwest of the town of Bishop, Inyo County, Califomia. The five power plants in the system, located primarily along the south, middle, and north forks of Bishop Creek, are at varying elevations on the steep eastern slopes of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Please refer to the "Historical Context" sections in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System (HAER No. CA-145) for historical context information regarding Control Station.

Each of the five Bishop Creek power plants, and Control Station, were originally developed with an associated residential complex occupied by operating and maintenance crews; all have now been removed with exception of small remaining enclaves at Plant 4, Control Station, and a single house at Plant 6. The company development of employee living areas permitted comprehensive planning seldom seen in privately developed residential areas during this period. Although lacking many of the landscape refinements of Plant 4, the Control Station compound nevertheless developed a unique character in keeping with its surroundings.

III. SOURCES

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1984 History of Nevada. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

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1986 An Architectural and Historical Evaluation of Structures Associated with the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Power System, Inyo County, California, December, 1986. Unpublished report prepared for Southern California Edison.

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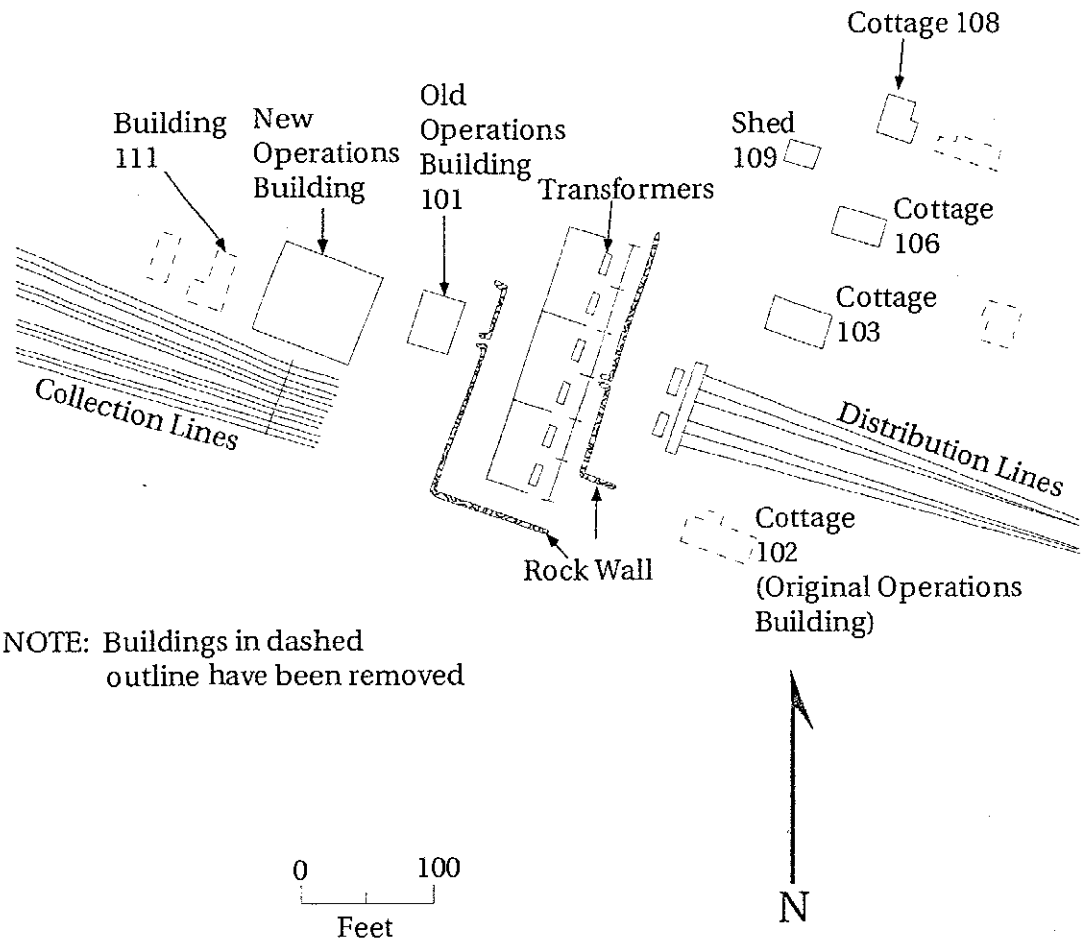
1988 Evaluation of the Historic Resources of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System, July, 1988. Unpublished report prepared for Southern California Edison.

Whiffen, Marcus
1969 American Architecture Since 1780. MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This Historic American Engineering Record documentation of Building 106 Control Station, a structure at the Control Station of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System, was undertaken because the building represents excess housing. SCE has automated the Bishop Creek power plants. Automation of the power plants has made it unnecessary to have on-site crews, thus, residential units like this house have become obsolete.


Cottage 108
Building 111
New Operations Building
Old Operations Building 101
Transformers
Shed 109
Cottage 106
Cottage 103
Collection Lines
Distribution Lines
Rock Wall
Cottage 102 (Original Operations Building)
NOTE: Buildings in dashed outline have been removed
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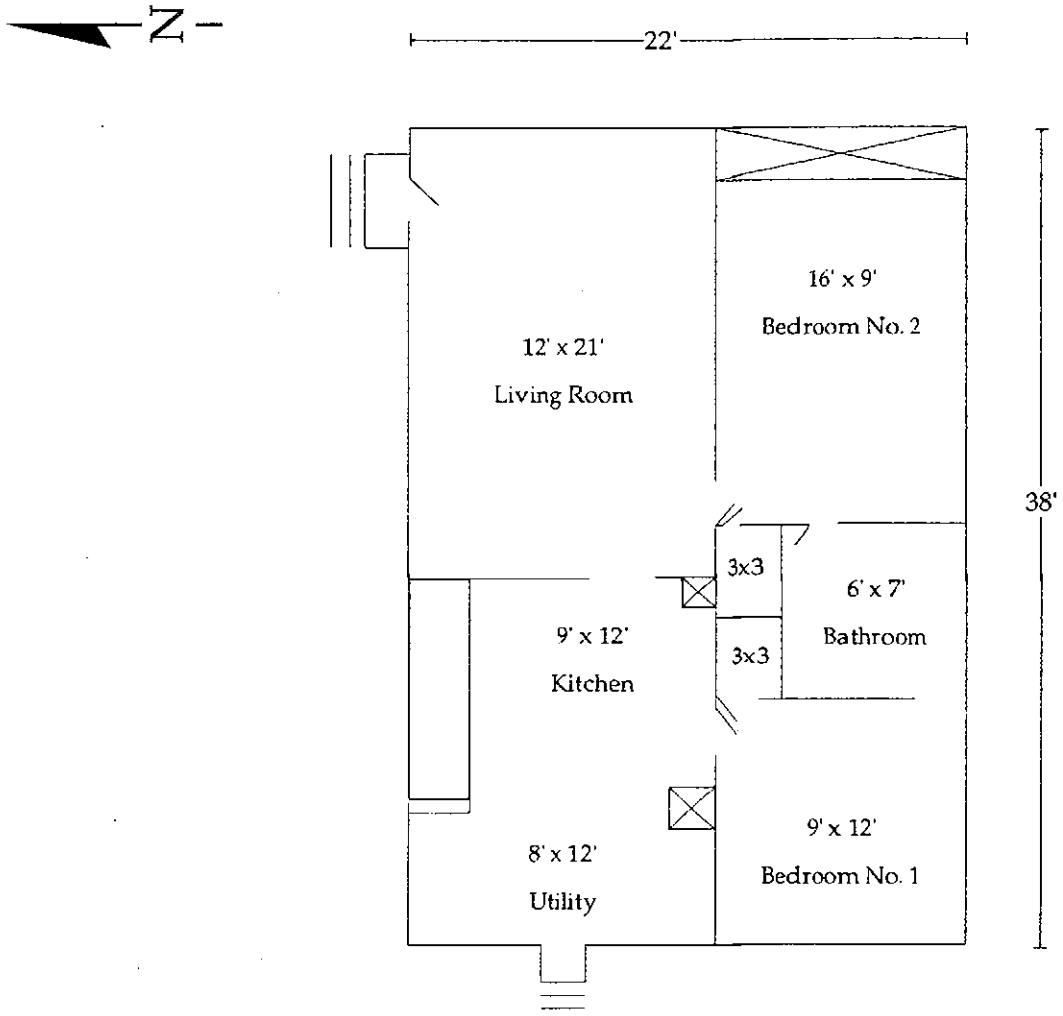
Z
22'
38'
16' x 9'
Bedroom No. 2
12' x 21'
Living Room
3x3
6' x 7'
Bathroom
3x3
9' x 12'
Kitchen
9' x 12'
Bedroom No. 1
8' x 12'
Utility